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EXCISE

Friday
October 3, 1952

Staff meeting.

We received word early this morning that the Soviet Government has requested the recall of George Kennan on the grounds that his statement in Berlin on September 19 before representatives of the West Berlin press and American correspondents consisted of false and slanderous attacks hostile to the Soviet Union, and constitutes a rude violation of generally accepted rules of international law. They took particular objection to Kennan's comparison of his position as Ambassador in Russia with his experiences in 1941-42, when he was interned by the Nazis in Germany.

We had a long discussion about the matter, and Dean located the President by telephone in Oregon.

Dean had a press conference at 1:00 o'clock, in which he informed the press that our Government does not accept as valid the charges made by the Soviet Government, and [redacted] it was the Soviet Government which had violated accepted traditions and customs of civilized people by the practices it has followed in international intercourse.

We did not say [redacted] we would withdraw Kennan, but since he is in Switzerland it is obviously impractical for him to return to the Soviet Union. There is no present intention of asking for the recall of Zarubin, the Russian Ambassador here, but all the questions raised by this move on the part of the Soviet Government will have to be under constant review, and there will be tremendous pressure brought to bear for some sort of retaliation for this action.

I called Kennan in Geneva ~~and asked him not to give out any press~~

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statements. Bohlen and Thompson are going down from Vienna to see him tomorrow, and all three of them will submit recommendations about this affair.

Tom Blaisdell came to see me. He is here on a trip from his University in California.

The Norwegian, Swedish and Danish Ambassadors called on Messrs. Ronhovde, Barringer and myself about the request previously made by Ambassador Kauffmann to permit the Scandinavian airlines to operate in and out of Thule Field in Greenland. We had requested the Department of Defense and the Civil Aeronautics Board to consider this request urgently. It is hung up at the present time in the Pentagon, since the question has been raised whether, for security reasons, we can allow commercial operations and the consequent disclosures of our military activities at that airport.

I telephoned Mrs. Roosevelt this morning to ask if she would head our delegation to attend the inauguration of President Ibanez in Chile from November 1 to November 4. She has taken this under consideration and will reply tomorrow. Ibanez has been depicted as anti-American and as a stooge of Peron. We are concerned over what may Kaffon there, and think a visit by Mrs. Roosevelt might be helpful, especially since we have had some reports that he could be persuaded to cooperate on a satisfactory basis with the United States.

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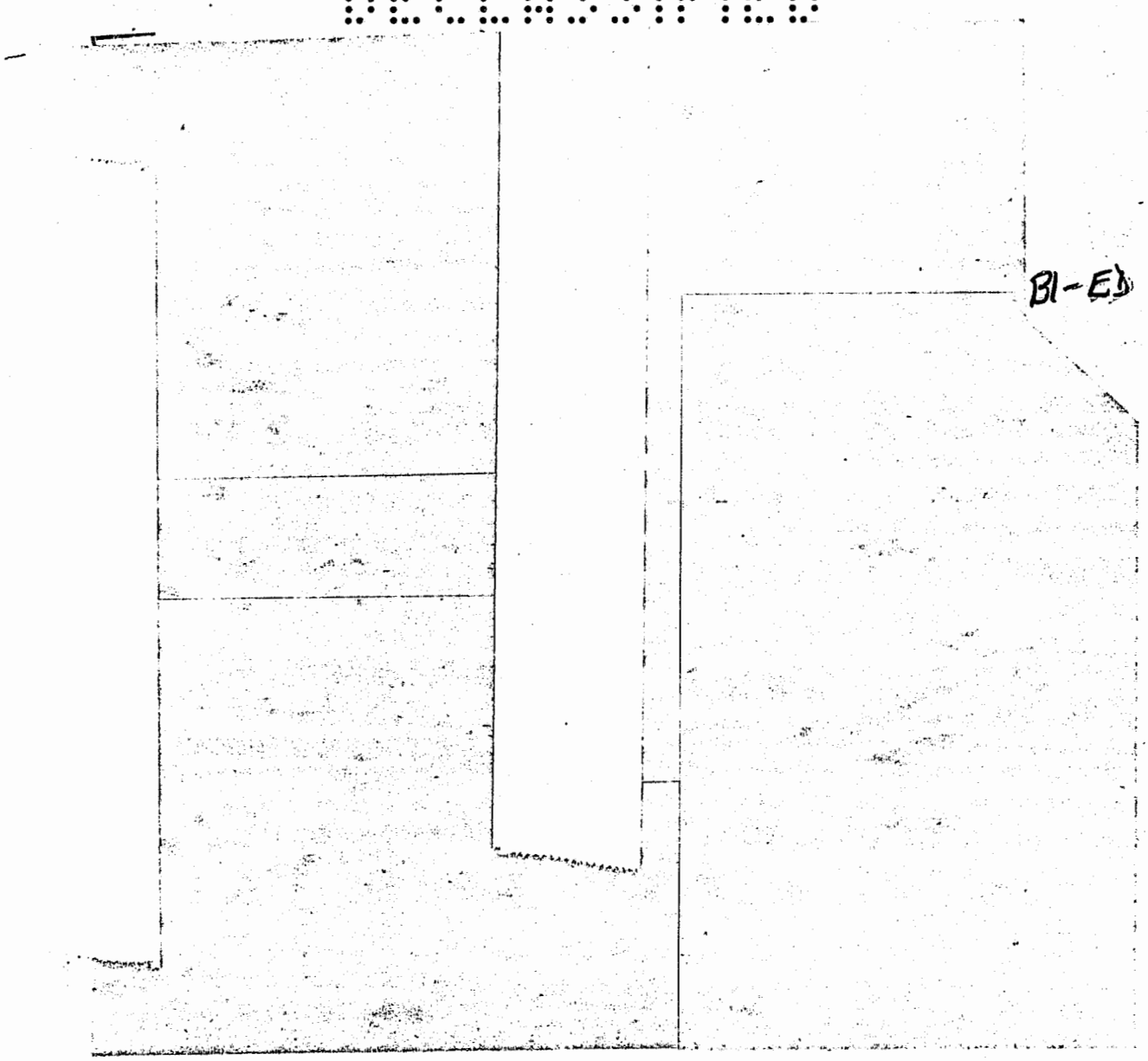

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Tonight, the resignation of Oliver Franks as Ambassador from Great Britain, effective toward the end of November, was announced, as well as his replacement by Roger Makins. Franks has been a remarkably successful Ambassador. He is a man of superior qualities in every respect, though I can appreciate his wanting to return to his professorial duties at Oxford. Roger Makins is an old friend of mine. His wife is

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Dwight Davis's daughter. He knows this country well and served for a long time at the Embassy here. He also is a man of ability and character.

We went to dinner tonight with Laura Gross at the 1925 F Street Club. It was in honor of Dr. Godshall, who is shortly going to Japan in connection with the Fulbright scholarships.

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